

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A breathable laminate having a moisture vapor transmission rate of at least about 300 g/m²/24 hours comprising a nonwoven support layer bonded to an oriented film comprising a letdown resin phase wherein said letdown resin comprises a first ethylene copolymer having a density between 0.900 and 0.915 g/cc and a melt index of no greater than 6 g/ 10 minutes and a carrier resin phase comprising a filler and a different ethylene polymer or copolymer having a density at least about 0.003 g/cc greater than the density of said letdown resin, wherein substantially all of said filler in said oriented film is contained only within discrete regions of said carrier resin phase and thereby separated from contact with said letdown phase, and wherein each of the discrete regions of the carrier resin phase is completely intermixed with and surrounded by the letdown resin phase.

2. (Original) The breathable laminate of claim 1 wherein the density of the film letdown resin is less than about 0.913 g/cc.

3. (Original) The breathable laminate of claim 2 wherein the density of the film letdown resin is in the range of from about 0.900 g/cc to about 0.912 g/cc.

4. (Original) The breathable laminate of claim 3 wherein the carrier resin ethylene polymer or copolymer has a density at least about 0.007 g/cc higher than that of said letdown resin.

5. (Original) The breathable laminate of claim 1 wherein the carrier resin ethylene polymer or copolymer has a melt index of at least about 10 g/10 min.

6. (Previously presented) The breathable laminate of claim 1 wherein the carrier resin ethylene polymer or copolymer has a melt index of at least about 20 g/10 min.

7. (Original) The breathable laminate of claim 1 having a film basis weight in the range of from about 13 gsm to about 25 gsm.

8. (Original) The breathable laminate of claim 4 having a film basis weight in the range of from about 13 gsm to about 25 gsm.

9. (Original) The breathable laminate of claim 1 wherein the film has a calcium carbonate filler concentration based on the total film composition in the range of from about 30% to about 70% by weight.

10. (Original) The breathable laminate of claim 8 wherein the film has a calcium carbonate filler concentration based on the total film composition in the range of from about 30% to about 70% by weight.

11. (Previously presented) The breathable laminate of claim 1 wherein both film ethylene copolymers are selected from the group consisting of linear low density polyethylene.

12. (Previously presented) The breathable laminate of claim 10 wherein both film ethylene copolymers are selected from the group consisting of linear low density polyethylene.

13. (Original) The breathable laminate of claim 1 wherein said nonwoven comprises a spunbond nonwoven.

14. (Original) The breathable laminate of claim 12 wherein said nonwoven comprises a spunbond nonwoven.

15. (Original) The breathable laminate of claim 1 wherein said nonwoven comprises a bonded carded web.

16. (Original) The breathable laminate of claim 12 wherein said nonwoven comprises a bonded carded web.

17. (Original) The breathable laminate of claim 1 wherein said nonwoven comprises more than one layer.

18. (Original) The breathable laminate of claim 14 wherein said nonwoven comprises more than one layer.

19. (Original) The breathable laminate of claim 1 wherein said film comprises more than one layer.

20. (Original) The breathable laminate of claim 14 wherein said film comprises more than one layer.

21. (Original) The breathable laminate of claim 1 wherein said film has a break strain in the cross machine direction of greater than 300%.

22. (Original) The breathable laminate of claim 14 wherein said film has a break strain in the cross machine direction of greater than 300%.

23. (Previously presented) The breathable laminate of claim 1 having a moisture vapor transmission rate of about 5000 g/m²/24 hours to about 10,000 g/m²/24 hours.

24. (Original) The breathable laminate of claim 1 wherein said film higher density ethylene copolymer has a density greater than 0.915 g/cc.

25. (Original) The breathable laminate of claim 14 wherein said letdown resin phase and said carrier resin phase comprise a layer constituting at least about 90% of the total film thickness.

26. (Original) A personal care product comprising the breathable film laminate of claim 1.

27. (Original) A disposable diaper comprising the breathable film laminate of claim 1 as a backing component.

28. (Withdrawn) A process for forming a breathable laminate of a film and a nonwoven comprising the steps of:

selecting a letdown ethylene copolymer resin having a density less than 0.915 g/cc and a melt index less than about 6;

dispersing a filler in a carrier ethylene polymer or copolymer resin having a density at least about 0.003 g/cc higher than said letdown resin;

dry blending said letdown resin and said filled carrier resin in amounts to provide a filler concentration in the blend of about 30% to 70% by weight;

extruding said blend to form a film;

stretching said film; and

bonding said film to a nonwoven layer.

29. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 28 wherein the step of stretching said film takes place after said film and nonwoven layer are bonded.

30. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 28 wherein said bonding step comprises an adhesive bonding step.